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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Note by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The High Commissioner for Human Rights has the honour to transmit to the members of the Commission on Human Rights the report of the meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme, which took place in Geneva from 31 May to 3 June 1999.

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Annex

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS/REPRESENTATIVES, EXPERTS AND CHAIRPERSONS OF WORKING GROUPS OF THE SPECIAL PROCEDURES OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF THE ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAMME

Geneva, 31 May-3 June 1999

Rapporteur: Ms. Asma Jahangir

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Introduction

1. The meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures and the advisory services programme of the Commission on Human Rights was organized as a follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights and to the previous five meetings which have been held on an annual basis since 1994. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in its section entitled "Implementation and monitoring methods", underlined "the importance of preserving and strengthening the system of special procedures" and specified that "the procedures and mechanisms should be enabled to harmonize and rationalize their work through periodic meetings" (Part II, para. 95).

2. The present meeting had before it a provisional agenda with annotations prepared by the secretariat. It also had before it a series of documents prepared by the secretariat or by participants.

3. The list of mandates of the special procedures mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights is provided in appendix I; the list of participants at the sixth meeting is given in appendix II.

4. Following the example of previous meetings, the Chairperson of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights, Ambassador Anne Anderson, was invited to participate in the deliberations on agenda item 8 (Cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights). Pursuant to a recommendation made at the last meeting, participants held a two-hour joint meeting with participants of the eleventh meeting of chairpersons of treaty bodies.

I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Opening of the meeting and address by the Chairperson of the fifth meeting

5. The meeting was opened by Ms. Mona Rishmawi, the Chairperson of the fifth meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme. She presented a report on the activities she had undertaken during the past year in her capacity as chairperson and announced the names of the special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme who had stepped down, those who had replaced them and those who had been nominated since the last meeting. The participants thanked Ms. Rishmawi and Mr. Copithorne, the Rapporteur of the fifth meeting, for their continued commitment and availability since the last meeting.

6. Ms. Rishmawi referred to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice in the case of Mr. Cumaraswamy, which had affirmed the integrity of the work of the rapporteurs and experts of the Commission. The Court was of the opinion that article VI, section 22, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations was "applicable" in the case of Mr. Cumaraswamy, and that he was "entitled to immunity from legal process of every kind for the words spoken by him during an interview as published in the

November 1995 issue of International Commercial Litigation". The Court further unanimously stated that Mr. Cumaraswamy should be "held financially harmless for any costs imposed upon him by the Malaysian courts, in particular taxed costs". The Court also found that the Government of Malaysia now had "the obligation to communicate [the] advisory opinion to the Malaysian courts, in order that Malaysia's international obligations be given effect and [Mr.] Cumaraswamy's immunity be respected".

7. Ms. Rishmawi expressed the hope that the Government of Malaysia would promptly and fully implement the Court's findings. The Court's Opinion should further serve as a reminder for the special procedures of the Commission to systematize their working methods, so as to ensure that the methodology of the rapporteurs and experts of the Commission was better known and documented.

8. Ms. Rishmawi paid tribute to the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for systematically and publicly supporting the activities of the rapporteurs and experts. Progress had been made in issuing the report of the fifth meeting within the specified deadline, and working relations with the secretariat had improved.

9. On the debit side, Ms. Rishmawi noted that several proposed activities of rapporteurs had been rejected by the secretariat, notably on financial grounds. This underlined the necessity of allocating, in the future, a modest budget for the follow-up to the recommendations emanating from the rapporteurs' meeting.

10. With respect to the review of mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, Ms. Rishmawi briefed the participants on her involvement in the discussions on this issue. She had addressed the special meeting with the Bureau of the Commission concerned during the fiftieth session of the Sub-Commission on 10 August 1998. Similarly, she had been able to convey the interests and concerns of the rapporteurs of the Commission to the eleventh meeting of the chairpersons of the treaty bodies held in September 1998.

B. Address by the High Commissioner for Human Rights

11. The High Commissioner thanked all the special rapporteurs and experts for their commitment in carrying out the important functions assigned to them by the Commission on Human Rights, often under very difficult circumstances. She outlined the actions of her Office undertaken with a view to assisting the system of special procedures to become more effective, both in terms of the delivery of products - reports, studies, urgent appeals - and in terms of the implementation of and follow-up to recommendations. These actions covered the following seven areas:

(a) Secretariat resources. The High Commissioner stressed that it was a priority of her Office to do its utmost to ensure that all existing special procedures mandates were serviced effectively, that is, by permanent desk or thematic officers. To that effect, as interim measures, OHCHR was exploring ways to better manage the mandates. These included (a) establishing detailed yearly work plans for each mandate; (b) ensuring continuity in the servicing

of mandates; (c) integrating staff training, as an essential part of the proper management of the special procedures system; and (d) considering an induction process for new rapporteurs;

(b) Strengthening follow-up procedures. As the implementation of or follow-up to the recommendations of special rapporteurs was of crucial importance and essential to the credibility of the special procedures system, the High Commissioner suggested that the participants study the experience of some of the treaty bodies with respect to their follow-up procedures, notably that of the Human Rights Committee concerning follow-up on Views adopted under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant. She also suggested that a "best practices" manual detailing the positive experiences of other mechanisms in that regard would be helpful, and OHCHR would be looking into the possibility of preparing such a manual;

(c) Building an emergency response capacity. OHCHR was exploring the possibility of creating an in-house Emergency Response Task Force, which would be expected to collate and analyse early-warning data and bring serious incidents to the immediate attention of senior management, as well as to the relevant rapporteurs and experts of the Commission;

(d) Strengthening the urgent appeals process. As an important preventive-action component of the special procedures system that deserved particular attention, the High Commissioner was considering the establishment of a central complaints desk through which all requests for urgent appeals would be channelled. Once in place, the complaints desk would store, in electronic format, all urgent action requests and all appeals processed and transmitted to Governments, to enable rapporteurs to monitor their follow-up;

(e) Improved coordination and cooperation between the special procedures and the treaty bodies, and timelier access to information. The High Commissioner welcomed the decision taken by the participants at their last meeting to conduct, during the sixth meeting and for the first time, a joint meeting with the chairpersons of treaty bodies. Such initiatives would help both mechanisms - which were complementary and mutually reinforcing - to improve coordination of their activities. She also referred to ways of strengthening the links between the rapporteurs and OHCHR field presences. Where appropriate, field offices might be requested to monitor the follow-up to participants' recommendations, or the follow-up to urgent appeals. It would also be appropriate for field offices to submit regular situation reports to the thematic rapporteurs;

(f) Databases, information management and information support systems. In order to facilitate the work of the special rapporteurs and ensure coherent processing of information, improve the efficiency of in-house operations and avoid duplication of work, OHCHR was developing an information technology strategy for the establishment of a thematic and external sources database, a multi-database search engine, and an Extranet;

(g) Corporate responsibility for human rights violations. As the role of private business in human rights had recently been receiving increased attention, and following the request made by the Secretary-General to OHCHR to assist the private sector, the High Commissioner informed the participants

about her decision to develop a strategy on the following two points: first, to stimulate interest and provide information and education in order to encourage corporate decision makers to include human rights as part of corporate mission statements and ethical codes; and second, to consider how corporations could be held accountable for human rights violations through United Nations organs and procedures. In that connection, she requested the participants to begin to consider what role they could play in helping to ensure corporate responsibility for violations of human rights.

12. The participants thanked the High Commissioner for the information she had provided and for the actions she had taken throughout the year to support their work.

C. Election of officers

13. Sir Nigel Rodley was elected Chairperson and Ms. Asma Jahangir was elected Rapporteur of the sixth meeting.

D. Adoption of the agenda

14. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and address by the Chairperson of the fifth meeting.

2. Address by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

3. Election of officers.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

5. Cooperation between special rapporteurs and United Nations departments, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and mechanisms:

   (a) Integrating a gender perspective into the work of the special procedures mandates;

   (b) Integrating economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development into the work of special procedures;

   (c) Coordination between the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and special procedures;

   (d) Coordination between the Department of Public Information and special procedures;

   (e) Intervention by the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons;

(f) Corporate responsibility for human rights violations;

(g) Cooperation between treaty bodies and special procedures.

6. The future of the special procedures system and capacity-building to improve the effectiveness of extraconventional mechanisms.

7. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) Consideration and adoption of the revised manual for special rapporteurs;

(b) Support services.

8. Cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights:

(a) Exchange of views with the Bureau of the Commission;

(b) Exchange of views with non-governmental organizations.

II. COOPERATION BETWEEN SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENTS, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND MECHANISMS

A. Integrating a gender perspective into the work of special procedures mandates

15. The Senior Adviser on Human Rights at the Division for the Advancement of Women briefed the meeting about the workshop for special rapporteurs and chairpersons of treaty bodies on gender mainstreaming. The workshop, organized by the Division and OHCHR as part of their 1999 work plan and by UNIFEM, was held from 26 to 28 May 1999. It was designed to build on work done so far, to identify progress made and obstacles encountered, and to develop specific strategies for further action.

16. Participants agreed on the importance of integrating a gender perspective into their activities, especially when drafting reports to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly and when conducting field missions. Although gender issues might not be of relevance to all mandates, participants agreed to make all possible efforts to seek information related to this subject. It was also suggested that a brief manual be put at the disposal of the participants containing information on how to deal with gender issues.

B. Integrating economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development into the work of special procedures

17. The Chief of the Research and Right to Development Branch of OHCHR briefed the participants on measures taken within the United Nations system to develop an integrated approach to programmes of assistance to countries. He referred specifically to the HURIST programme, a joint UNDP/OHCHR programme aimed at supporting the implementation of UNDP's policy document, "Integrating Human Rights with Sustainable Human Development". The primary purposes of the

programme were to test guidelines and methodologies and to identify best practices and learning opportunities in the development of national capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights and in the application of a human rights approach to development programming. It would support country offices in providing assistance in the field of human rights and generally contribute to the development of UNDP's capacity to apply a human rights approach in its work.

18. The programme had five "windows":

Window 1 will focus on the institutional capacity to develop national plans of action for human rights promotion. Pilot cases will be undertaken in five countries, one in each region;

Window 2 will support five pilot projects, one in each region, to introduce a human rights approach into sustainable human development programming, including capacity-building for mainstreaming human rights in development;

Window 3 will consist of the organization of workshops to facilitate the ratification of human rights treaties and necessary follow-up activities;

Window 4 will stimulate global dialogue on the human rights dimensions and implications of globalization; and

Window 5 will respond to requests from countries for programming support in the field of human rights, provide funding for United Nations Volunteers serving in UNDP country offices and facilitate cooperation between HURIST and regional-level activities in the field of human rights.

19. The HURIST programme was established on 8 April 1999 and the steering committee, composed of representatives of UNDP and OHCHR, had already started to meet.

20. Participants welcomed the presentation but noted that technical cooperation activities such as those described had to be distinguished from the integration of the whole set of human rights and their implementation at the country level. With regard to their own activities, participants suggested that a study could be undertaken to review all reports submitted by special rapporteurs and highlight what had been done in terms of reporting on economic, social and cultural rights. Such a study might also be a source of information for identifying best practices and learning opportunities when analysing country information and setting up criteria for providing assistance to different countries.

C. Coordination between the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and special procedures

21. With a view to discussing issues of mutual concern from the humanitarian and human rights perspective, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs addressed the meeting and suggested ways to increase cooperation

between OCHA and the special rapporteurs. He told the participants that his Office had established a cluster on human rights and humanitarian action within its Policy Development Unit. The Unit was in the process of developing, in the context of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, a compendium of good field practices on human rights for humanitarian personnel. A focal point for coordination with the special rapporteurs had been nominated.

22. In concluding, the Under-Secretary-General suggested several possible ways to strengthen the existing coordination. These included the following:

(a) Special rapporteurs could benefit from the valuable information that OCHA was regularly compiling on particular countries. In the context of preparation of field missions, OCHA could provide an information package for special rapporteurs and experts;

(b) OCHA would continue the process of consultation with special rapporteurs and would be available, upon request, to organize and coordinate meetings for special rapporteurs when they visited New York.

D. Coordination between the Department of Public Information and special procedures

23. The Director of the Department of Public Information in Geneva addressed the participants on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information. She suggested several guidelines that would increase the impact of their work as well as the coverage of their activities by the media:

(a) Rapporteurs should inform DPI when planning field missions; when relevant, journalists or TV crews, including those of DPI, should be invited to accompany them;

(b) Following field missions, rapporteurs might consider holding a press conference to inform the media on the outcome of their visits. These could be organized in the respective countries if a United Nations information office existed there;

(c) DPI could also involve rapporteurs when launching United Nations information campaigns or commemorating particular anniversaries.

24. Understanding the importance of the media in reflecting the work of the rapporteurs, participants stressed the importance of publicizing and disseminating their reports in the countries concerned. For instance, they emphasized the need to have the reports translated into the languages of the countries visited, even when those languages were not official languages of the United Nations. Some participants suggested that DPI might also assist the rapporteurs in informing the United Nations system about their status and their role. That would facilitate their actions and work when meeting other agencies, especially in the field. Participants also suggested that DPI play a greater role in persuading the media to pay more attention and give more in-depth coverage to the recommendations of the rapporteurs. All participants agreed that informing the media about the activities undertaken by the rapporteurs throughout the year was a matter of coordination between OHCHR

and DPI. Finally, it was suggested that DPI provide the rapporteurs with a set of best practices on how to publicize and disseminate the work of the United Nations or of associated entities.

25. The Director agreed to consider the suggestions made. However, she cautioned that some of them, such as translation of the reports into national languages, would necessitate additional resources. With regard to convincing the media to better disseminate the rapporteurs' recommendations, she emphasized that the media were free and independent partners, guided by their own motives.

E. Intervention of the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons

26. The Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, Mr. Francis Deng, informed the participants about his mandate and his method of work. He explained the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement which he had elaborated in close collaboration with United Nations agencies.

27. Participants welcomed the work performed by Mr. Deng in providing a legal framework for internally displaced persons, a framework which was useful to the participants' work and to humanitarian agencies providing assistance to such persons. Some participants noted that some Governments had applied the standards mentioned in the Guiding Principles when facing a situation of displacement in their respective countries. All participants agreed that although progress had been made in providing humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons, much remained to be done on the protection side and that there was still no satisfactory enforcement mechanism to protect adequately all their human rights. It was also necessary to coordinate better the activities of all United Nations agencies in the field that were working on this particular issue.

F. Corporate responsibility for human rights violations

28. Following a proposal made by the High Commissioner, participants agreed to start a dialogue on the role of private business in human rights. A representative of OHCHR informed the participants that the Secretary-General, at the 1999 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, had requested world business leaders to support and respect the protection of international human rights within their sphere of influence, and to ensure that their corporations were not accomplices to human rights abuses. As the High Commissioner indicated in her address, she had decided to follow up on the Secretary-General's challenge, first, by stimulating interest and providing information and education to corporate decision makers, and second, to consider how corporations could be held responsible for human rights violations.

29. All participants agreed that this was a very important issue with important ramifications, but that it could only be discussed in depth at the next annual meeting. It involved the role of non-State actors and touched upon the responsibility and practices of the private sector and on State responsibility. Recent initiatives by transnational corporations to draft voluntary self-regulating codes of conduct and rules should be welcomed, but

not if the result was to avoid the establishment of international standards regulating their conduct. The lack of information in this domain was another difficulty in dealing with this issue. The Special Rapporteur on toxic wastes referred to her reports to the Commission on Human Rights and the studies she had undertaken as a member of the Sub-Commission. Some of the participants informed the meeting about their own experiences in studying the relationship between the activities of transnational corporations and human rights violations.

G. Cooperation between treaty bodies and special procedures

30. The first joint meeting of chairpersons of treaty bodies and the special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups held on 2 June 1999, was welcomed. The six chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies 1/ and three representatives of the special procedures 2/ provided information on the activities of their respective mandates, as well as on interaction between the treaty bodies and the Commission mechanisms. The presentations were followed by suggestions on how to enhance cooperation between the treaty bodies and the special procedures system, including the following:

(a) The reports of the special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups should contain a specific section on the situation of children;

(b) The reports of the special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups should include a gender focus in their assessment of human rights situations;

(c) Greater use should be made by the treaty bodies and the special procedures system of the findings of the other mechanism;

(d) There should be close cooperation in the preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

(e) More information should be shared on positive achievements and best practices in the implementation of human rights;

(f) Ways should be explored to enable the two mechanisms jointly to enhance the interpretation of human rights provisions in a consistent manner;

(g) Greater attention should be paid to the impact of armed conflict on the realization of human rights;

(h) There should be opportunities for the two groups of mechanisms to discuss thematic issues of common interest such as human rights and the environment, education and human rights defenders;

(i) There is a need for an exchange of information and experience regarding follow-up procedures to ensure the implementation of conclusions and recommendations;

(j) Databases should be developed to facilitate the exchange of information; and

(k) Consideration should be given to compiling an easily accessible chart on planned and recently completed missions in order to identify activities of common interest and opportunities for cooperation.

31. Following its general discussion, the joint meeting adopted the following recommendations:

(a) The joint meeting emphasized that the work of each group of mechanisms is equally and mutually important. It also welcomed efforts made by OHCHR to make the documentation produced by both the treaty bodies and the special procedures available to the other mechanism and urged the intensification of such efforts. In particular, it urged OHCHR to institutionalize a system for drawing the attention of the special procedures mandates to information from the treaty bodies that was relevant to their work, including the concluding observations on States parties' reports and final views on individual cases. Similarly, the special procedures should make available, as appropriate, the reports on their respective activities to the human rights treaty bodies;

(b) The joint meeting encouraged the treaty bodies to call, as they felt necessary, for the cooperation of the special procedures, including the possibility of a direct exchange of information during their respective sessions. It requested OHCHR to take steps to ensure the necessary funding for such cooperation;

(c) So as to provide an opportunity to conduct more in-depth consultations and dialogue on areas of common concern, the joint meeting recommended that a full day of joint meetings be arranged for next year.

III. THE FUTURE OF THE SPECIAL PROCEDURES SYSTEM AND CAPACITY-BUILDING TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXTRACONVENTIONAL MECHANISMS

32. In her opening address to the sixth meeting, the High Commissioner for Human Rights reaffirmed that the special procedures system was one of the core elements of the United Nations human rights programme. In order to explore ways through which more support might be provided to the system and to enable it to function more effectively, the High Commissioner had requested Mr. Hammarberg and Ms. Rishmawi to examine ways through which her Office could contribute to improving the effectiveness of the special procedures and to report to her their findings, conclusions and recommendations.

33. During the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights, the experts nominated by the High Commissioner held extensive consultations with most rapporteurs and experts of the Commission, OHCHR staff, non-governmental organizations, the Deputy High Commissioner and the High Commissioner. They identified a number of recurrent concerns and issues relating to the operation of the special procedures system which were raised during these consultations; these were included in a draft report which, in the form of a chart, was made

available to the participants at the sixth meeting of rapporteurs and e
Participants also had before them a brief discussion paper on the forma
reports of rapporteurs and experts to the Commission.

34. The participants unanimously welcomed the draft report as an exce
tool for substantive discussion on the future of the special procedures
system. Many pointed out that the major issues of concern identified i
draft report, i.e.:

(a) inadequate staff resources for special procedures mandates;

(b) inadequate language services for many mandates;

(c) recurrent problems with administrative backup;

(d) inadequacy of OHCHR's analysis and research capacity;

(e) deficiencies in the management of mandates;

(f) induction and guidance of special rapporteurs;

(g) need for better coordination of urgent actions;

(h) need for better cooperation with the treaty bodies;

(i) desirability of improving OHCHR's emergency response capaci

(j) follow-up to the special rapporteurs' recommendations;

(k) need for comprehensive special procedures databases and
information support systems

were an exhaustive list of the special procedures system's major proble
Others observed that some issues needed to be broadened or spelled out
further. Several participants pointed out that if a final report was t
ured by the High Commissioner as a basis for raising voluntary funds fo
special procedures system, some prioritization among the recommendation
inevitably have to be made.

35. Participants agreed that the staffing situation, insofar as it ha
the servicing of special procedures mandates, deserved particular atten
The ultimate goal was to have all special procedures mandates serviced
effectively and on a full time basis, preferably by permanent thematic
officers. There should be flexibility in the implementation of this go

36. Some participants recalled that the designation of [an] administr
focal point(s) for the special procedures mandates had been recommended
previous occasions; they expressed the hope that the final report would
in the effective implementation of this recommendation.

37. In respect of better management of mandates, several participants
cautioned that while the establishment of yearly workplans for each man
was a commendable suggestion, this should be implemented with the requi

flexibility and allow rapporteurs and experts sufficient freedom in the planning and conduct of their activities. Similarly, it was undesirable to be too categorical in the rationalization of procedures governing the selection of countries to be visited by any given mandate. Some participants opposed the institution of standardized complaints forms to be used by all mandates: the special procedures mandates were too different in purpose and scope to warrant such standardized forms.

38. One participant noted that the in-house research capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner was wanting. The Office should accept offers of research assistance for rapporteurs or experts from outside academic institutions. Mr. Bassiouni suggested that OHCHR should designate a focal point to receive research requests and channel them to the academic institution(s) with the appropriate expertise. Mr. Hammarberg cautioned that the mandate holders should not go too far in enlisting the support of academic institutions, as that could cast a shadow on the independence of the special procedures mandates.

39. Most participants welcomed the suggestion relating to an improved procedure of induction of new rapporteurs and experts into their mandates. This should include initiation visits to Geneva and/or New York with thorough briefings by OHCHR, as well as contacts with specialized agencies and NGOs. It should also include reliable political advice from senior OHCHR management on delicate political issues with which rapporteurs and experts might be confronted. It was noted, however, that it would be difficult to have new rapporteurs discuss and adopt a comprehensive workplan during such an initial visit. A flexible approach was preferable in this respect. Others pointed out that a separate induction manual for rapporteurs was unnecessary, in view of the expected adoption of the manual for special rapporteurs at the present meeting.

40. Concerning the format of special procedures' reports to the Commission, participants agreed that the current system, which required all reports to be available to the Commission in the official languages of the United Nations, was unsatisfactory. Deadlines for the submission of reports, especially those on country visits, meant that many reports were at least partially out of date by the time they were debated by the Commission. Reports with up-to-date information were essential to the effectiveness of the system. The Chairperson observed that the advance publication of reports in their original language and in the language of the country visited was a possible solution that merited study. The possibility of "staggering" the submission of reports by dividing them into categories on the basis of criteria to be determined was welcomed by a number of participants but received with scepticism by others: on the basis of which objective criteria should reports be selected for early or late submission? One participant suggested that OHCHR should seek some loosening of the General Assembly resolution (36/117 B) which required reports to be available in all the official languages before being made public.

41. Mr. Joinet recalled the positive experience with the "working document" of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on its recent visit to Indonesia and East Timor which had been made available in English and French only to the participants at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission in an attempt to

submit up-to-date information and timely recommendations to the recipient Government. The practice had been welcomed by the Commission and by the Government of Indonesia.

42. Concerning the proposal to establish a central complaints desk which would ensure coherent processing of complaints and, above all, of urgent appeals, the majority of participants endorsed the idea in principle. It was pointed out, however, that a central complaints desk might risk bureaucratizing the processing of urgent appeals; a compromise between a centralized system and the current system would therefore be preferable. Others advocated maintaining some flexibility in the system.

43. The Chairperson pointed to the differences in content, scope and techniques of urgent appeals between the different mandates. A fully coordinated approach was only possible in a largely automated system in which the secretariat was given substantial room for manoeuvre. Each mandate holder should clearly convey to the secretariat what her or his policy in respect of handling urgent appeals was. Other participants stressed the necessity of coordinating and systematizing the processing and dispatch of all urgent appeals.

44. The possible establishment by OHCHR of an emergency response capacity was welcomed by several participants as a timely and necessary initiative and central to efforts to strengthen the special procedures system. The problem, however, was mainly one of political will on the part of the international community to respond to human rights emergencies; abundant early-warning data were available, but action on such data was difficult to agree on.

45. Participants agreed that follow-up to the recommendations of rapporteurs and experts was central to the credibility of the special procedure system. Most mandates had adopted procedures to monitor the follow-up to their recommendations, but the purpose and the addressees of follow-up activities could differ from mandate to mandate. The specialized agencies might also be encouraged to adopt initiatives to follow up on the rapporteurs' recommendations. Mr. Joinet explained the follow-up procedure instituted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention as well as prospective measures to improve follow up on its recommendations.

46. Finally, participants agreed that it was essential to design and implement special procedures databases in order for the system to perform more effectively. In this context, it was desirable for OHCHR to become more professional in the processing and management of information.

IV. COOPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Consideration and adoption of the revised manual for special rapporteurs

47. Ms. Rishmawi briefed participants on developments in this regard since the fifth meeting. She noted that all comments on the draft manual received from rapporteurs and experts had been incorporated into the new version. The revised manual was now ready for adoption, but the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice in the case of Mr. Cumaraswamy should be

reflected in the final version. She added that the manual was an "active" document that should be periodically updated and revised; this should be reflected in the text.

48. Mr. Copithorne noted that on the question of insurance (paras. 71-73 of the revised manual), the manual should indicate that the matter continued to be under active discussion with the Office of Legal Affairs, and that readers should seek to ascertain the current status of the debate. Others pointed out that the insurance issue was described in misleading terms in paragraphs 71 to 73 of the revised manual and that, accordingly, that section should be reviewed. It was agreed to do so. In the first sentence of paragraph 73, the words "and consultants" should be deleted, so as to eliminate any possible misconceptions concerning the status of rapporteurs as experts on mission.

49. The meeting was alerted to correspondence between the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Chairperson of the fifth meeting on the draft code of conduct for experts on mission. Participants noted that the discussions on this issue continued, and that this should either be reflected in the manual or all references to the draft code should be dropped. Many participants favoured the deletion of references to the draft code of conduct from the manual.

50. In answer to a question from the floor, the Chairperson confirmed that the draft code of conduct applied juridically to all rapporteurs and experts of the Commission. It was thus important to ascertain which elements of the code, if any, were inimical to the interests of the rapporteurs, and the Office of Legal Affairs should be contacted with a view to correcting any such elements. The Chairperson and Mr. Copithorne would follow the evolution of the draft code, keep participants briefed and make proposals, as appropriate. Any further concerns of participants should be drawn to the attention of the Chairperson and Mr. Copithorne.

51. One participant inquired whether it was not advisable to modify paragraph 30 of the revised manual, dealing with submission of reports within specified deadlines, in the light of the discussion on this issue. The Chairperson observed that the contents of the paragraph reflected the official United Nations position, which remained valid; it was therefore difficult to modify the paragraph.

52. It was noted that the formulation of paragraph 19 might give rise to misunderstandings, in that it conveyed the impression that rapporteurs and experts only travelled to New York to attend the General Assembly. That was not the case. In response, the Chairperson proposed to replace the words "and elsewhere as appropriate" (para. 19 _in fine_) to "or elsewhere as appropriate".

53. It was noted that the distinction, in paragraph 14 of the revised manual, between country-specific mandates entrusted to special procedures and country-specific technical cooperation programmes merited further attention, since the lines between special procedures monitoring activities and technical cooperation programmes were increasingly blurred. This issue should be placed on the agenda of the seventh meeting in 2000.

54. Summing up the discussion, the Chairperson observed that the draft manual was "ready for adoption", subject to the following amendments:

(a) The issue of insurance would need to be reviewed;

(b) It should be spelled out clearly that the manual was for guidance and facilitation purposes, and that it was a dynamic document;

(c) The section on privileges and immunities should be amended to reflect the outcome of the case of Mr. Cumaraswamy;

(d) Once the manual was adopted, the meeting could discuss internal guidelines for the special procedures mandates and add them to the manual in one form or another.

55. Subject to these amendments, the meeting adopted the Manual for Special Rapporteurs by consensus. Meanwhile, there would be inter-sessional consultations among participants on a draft set of guiding principles, prepared by Mr. Joinet, Mr. Deng and Mr. Cumaraswamy, that emerged from or complemented guidance for participants found in the Manual.

B. Support services

56. With respect to this item, the participants had before them an information note updating them on the following issues: issuance of United Nations laissez-passer to experts on mission; insurance available to experts on mission; identification of regular budget resources for each mandate; and staff support for the servicing of mandates. The meeting was briefed on these and other administrative issues by the chief of OHCHR's administrative unit and by the Director of Administration of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).

57. In respect of the issue of the laissez-passer, participants were told of the opinion of the Office of Legal Affairs, dated 8 January 1999, confirming that there was no legal basis, under the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, for issuing a laissez-passer to experts on mission. On the issue of insurance, Mr. Pinheiro briefed participants about his experience with United Nations insurance coverage following an accident and injuries sustained during a mission to Burundi in 1998. He regretted the delays in proceedings before the United Nations Claims and Compensation Board, which had necessitated temporary financial outlays from private funds.

58. The long delays in the settlement of claims by the Claims and Compensation Board were acknowledged. The Office of Legal Affairs had declined to make available private insurance to rapporteurs and experts free of charge. Private insurance could be contracted by the rapporteurs themselves, and a model form had been prepared by the OHCHR administration - those rapporteurs wishing to take out the insurance offered by a specialized insurance company should simply fill in and sign the form, and the insurance premiums would be deducted from their daily subsistence allowance. Given the moderate premiums for coverage during missions to Geneva, it was suggested that private insurance coverage should be automatic. Other participants

inquired whether private insurance coverage could not also be extended to other United Nations duty stations or locations frequently visited by rapporteurs.

59. On the issue of budgetary allocations to special procedures mandates, participants were presented with two tables, one showing regular budget allocations for the 1998-1999 biennium, broken down by mandate and object of expenditure and identifying staff assigned to each mandate, and the other showing proposed regular budget allocations for the 2000-2001 biennium, broken down by mandate and object of expenditure, at November 1998 rates, complete with staff assignments.

60. The participants welcomed the clarifications provided by the chief of the OHCHR Administrative Unit, but noted that the budgetary appropriations varied significantly from one mandate to the other. In response, it was explained that under the regular budget procedure there was no individual budget for each mandate, rather one global account for all mandates, and the figures given for each mandate were notional. In reply to another question, he suggested that the OHCHR administration would henceforth keep virtual accounts for all mandates and would thus be in position to identify, in the future, the expenditures that had actually been incurred by each mandate during a given year.

61. Concerning the question of payment of daily subsistence allowance (DSA) to rapporteurs, the participants were informed that the Director of Administration would authorize, with immediate effect and on a trial basis, payment of 100 per cent DSA advances and terminal expenses for the rapporteurs in connection with their official travel to Geneva and to the field. Overpayments, if any, would be recovered in full from the experts' subsequent travel authorization(s). The administration would endeavour to extend this arrangement to the rapporteurs' visits to United Nations Headquarters.

62. Implementation of this trial arrangement was subject to the receipt by UNOG of:

(a) A list of participants for meetings and/or (in the case of field missions) the travel authorization at least five working days before the beginning of the meeting or the mission. As a result, all OHCHR units concerned should submit travel requests to OHCHR's administrative unit at least 10 working days in advance;

(b) Travel claims at the latest 10 working days after completion of a mission. Travel claims should be submitted to OHCHR's administrative unit at the latest six working days after completion of a mission.

63. Several participants raised concerns relating to the late issuance of air tickets, or inappropriate routeing forced upon them by United Nations administrative arrangements. The concept of "least costly airfare" used by the United Nations administration, which might imply a restricted choice of airlines for travel, was explained. So as to better track travel arrangements made for special rapporteurs and experts and to identify the causes for delays in the issuance of DSA and tickets and the processing of claims, OHCHR's administrative unit would set up a database which will reflect, inter alia:

(a) The date that the request for travel arrangements are received by OHCHR;

(b) The date of receipt of the request by OHCHR's administrative un

(c) The date of submission of the request to UNOG;

(d) The date of issuance of DSA and ticket by the travel agent;

(e) The date of receipt of DSA and ticket by the expert concerned;

(f) The date of submission of the travel claim by the expert to OHC

(g) The date of submission of the claim to UNOG; and

(h) The date of the final settlement of the claim.

V. COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Exchange of views with the Bureau of the Commission on Human Rights

64. On 3 June 1999, Ambassador Anne Anderson, Chairperson of the fifty-fi session of the Commission on Human Rights, addressed the participants on developments in the Commission which were of relevance to the work of Commission rapporteurs and experts, and especially on the issue of the revi of mechanisms of the Commission. She assured participants that all of thei concerns would be conveyed to the Bureau of the Commission at its meeting i mid-June 1999. The meeting expressed its appreciation to Ambassador Anders for her clear and candid presentation.

65. Ambassador Anderson highlighted a number of issues which she thought were central to the effective operation of the special procedures system. These are summarized in the following paragraphs.

66. Ambassador Anderson indicated that she was acutely aware of the misma between the importance of the work of the Commission's rapporteurs and expe and the resources allocated to the different mandates.

67. Ambassador Anderson conveyed her concern that the participation of rapporteurs and experts in the plenary debates of the Commission was not functioning properly, and was in urgent need of review. Many rapporteurs p only fleeting visits to the Commission plenary, and many comments by delegations on reports were made in the absence of the rapporteurs concerne There was a case to be made for more spontaneous reactions from Commission delegations to the presentation of reports by rapporteurs and experts. It also her impression that informal consultations between rapporteurs and Commission delegates or delegations were not as effective as she would have hoped.

68. Ambassador Anderson deplored the serious gap between the time limits the submission of the rapporteurs' reports and their tardy availability to

Commission delegations. As a result, many delegations were unfamiliar with the content of reports at the time of their presentation. The documentation situation had to be addressed once again.

69. Ambassador Anderson acknowledged the modest outcome of the review of mechanisms during the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, as reflected in her consensus statement of 28 April 1999. Some decisions of direct relevance to the work of the rapporteurs and experts of the Commission (e.g. preparation of executive summaries of reports) had, however, been adopted, and they would be implemented promptly. The open-ended working group entrusted with a further comprehensive examination of the Bureau's report (see document E/CN.4/1999/104) would meet two or three times under her presidency before the next session of the Commission, and input and contributions from the rapporteurs and experts of the Commission would be welcomed.

70. Ambassador Anderson encouraged the practice, instituted by several rapporteurs, to consult regularly with representatives of regional groups on the occasion of visits to Geneva or to United Nations headquarters. The more regularly such a dialogue could be organized, the better the consequences for the effective operation of the system.

71. Finally, Ambassador Anderson expressed particular interest in information about the frequency and incidence of joint country visits conducted by two or more rapporteurs of the Commission.

72. In response to Ambassador Anderson's address, several participants expressed their frustration with the current modalities of their participation in Commission plenary debates. These modalities had to be reviewed thoroughly if the raison d'être of the entire special procedures system was not to be undermined. Rapporteurs and experts were allowed wholly insufficient time to present their reports in the plenary (this was particularly true for thematic rapporteurs), debates tended to be ritualistic and stereotyped, and replies of delegations were often out of tune with the tenor of the rapporteurs' and experts' conclusions and recommendations. Some participants suggested that they should be allowed to remain in Geneva for longer periods during the Commission session than they were entitled to at present; this would enable them to attend plenary debates as appropriate and to organize and conduct consultations with Commission delegations and NGOs on the same occasion.

73. All participants underlined the usefulness of informal consultations with Commission delegations and with representatives of regional groups. Such consultations were useful in that they helped clarify questions on the scope of mandates, prepare the agenda for country visits, and allowed for comprehensive discussion of issues of relevance to the rapporteurs.

74. A number of participants suggested that the Commission on Human Rights follow the example of the Third Committee of the General Assembly which, in the autumn of 1998, had facilitated a spontaneous dialogue between rapporteurs and delegations immediately after the presentation of the rapporteurs' report(s). The Commission was encouraged to institute a similar mechanism, rather than maintaining the current time differential between presentation of the report and the right of reply by delegations.

75. It was suggested that the Chairperson of the Commission or its Bureau should be given a more active role in the issue of follow-up to the recommendations of rapporteurs and experts. One participant proposed that the Commission prepare, on a yearly basis, a report detailing the follow-up, if any, that had been given by Governments to the rapporteurs' recommendations.

76. On the issue of joint country visits by rapporteurs or working groups, one participant pointed out that, while an excellent practice in principle, such joint visits would reduce the number of countries benefiting from the visits of rapporteurs or experts, in the light of the restrictions on annual country visits imposed on rapporteurs and experts.

77. Several participants expressed concern about the process of the review of mechanisms of the Commission. If the very existence or the transformation of some Commission mandates was at stake, then the rapporteurs, working groups and experts of the Commission should at the very least be consulted and be allowed to participate in the process of the open-ended working group. It was suggested that the Chairperson of the sixth meeting, as well as its Rapporteur, should be invited to participate in the meetings of the open-ended working group; to this might be added, as appropriate, those rapporteurs whose mandates were directly affected by the discussions in the group.

78. Ambassador Anderson thanked participants for their replies, adding that she shared many of their concerns, as outlined above. She confirmed that she would consider favourably the request for the rapporteurs to participate in the meetings of the open-ended working group on the review of mechanisms. Thought should further be given to establishing a consultation mechanism between regional groups and representatives and rapporteurs and experts not based in Geneva.

B. Exchange of views with non-governmental organizations

79. The participants met with representatives of NGOs to exchange views on the mechanisms of the Commission and the strengthening of the special procedures system. Representatives of International Service for Human Rights, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues welcomed the initiative and stressed the importance of the special procedures mechanisms.

80. Most of the NGO representatives raised specific points relating to the protection of human rights defenders, the independence and impartiality of the special procedures system and the follow-up to the recommendations of the special rapporteurs as well as the support offered to the special rapporteurs. They presented specific recommendations relating to the review of the mechanisms, the annual meetings of rapporteurs, protecting human rights defenders and initiatives to enhance coordination between NGOs and special rapporteurs.

81. All NGO representatives drew the attention of the participants to the importance of the role to be played by the special procedures of the Commission for the implementation of the "Declaration on Human Rights Defenders". NGO representatives regretted the fact that the Commission did not appoint a special rapporteur on this issue and stressed the necessity

for all rapporteurs to include in their reports to the Commission and the General Assembly a distinct chapter on violations perpetrated against human rights defenders.

82. In the context of the review of the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, NGO representatives welcomed the generally positive contribution made by the Bureau of the Commission. However, they believed that some proposals would undermine the effectiveness of the Commission's mechanisms. The proposal to transform the mandate of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention into that of a special rapporteur would completely change the nature of this mandate and negatively affect its capacity to respond to alleged violations of the right not to be deprived arbitrarily of one's liberty.

83. All rapporteurs stated that the opportunity to exchange views with NGOs was important and rewarding. They stressed the importance of the role of the NGOs in the creation, as well as for the fulfilment of their mandates, particularly in terms of information-sharing and raising awareness.

84. All participants underlined the importance of taking into consideration the "Declaration on Human Rights Defenders" when fulfilling their respective functions. In this regard, it was suggested that a specific item on this particular issue be mentioned in the agenda of the next annual meeting of special rapporteurs. It was also recommended that prior to next year's meeting, a small working group be established to discuss it further. Several other participants agreed with the proposal to add a distinct item on violations perpetrated against human rights defenders. Another participant referred to the need to cooperate with the Secretary-General who had been entrusted to report to the Commission on reprisals against human rights defenders.

85. It was suggested, inter alia, that the High Commissioner issue an annual report consisting of a compilation of the conclusions and recommendations of the country and thematic rapporteurs.

86. Participants agreed to include on the agenda for next year a meeting with the Bureau of the Commission as well as with non-governmental organizations.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

87. On the basis of its discussions, the meeting formulated the following conclusions and recommendations:

(a) The meeting requested that information from OHCHR field offices be made available to the rapporteurs and experts on a regular basis, including on the reporting practices of field presences, so as to enable the rapporteurs and experts better to link up to the OHCHR field offices;

(b) The meeting welcomed the organization of the workshop on the integration of a gender perspective into human rights activities, and commended the report to all the participants;

(c) The meeting noted with appreciation the high-level participation of OHCHR in the executive committees of the Organization, thereby underlining the central role of human rights in the work of the Organization;

(d) The meeting further appreciated the integration into and streamlining of human rights activities in the programme of the United Nations Development Programme. It urged UNDP and OHCHR to institutionalize the annual review of the implementation of their memorandum of understanding;

(e) The rapporteurs and experts welcomed the willingness of OCHA to share country information and reports with the special procedures mechanisms;

(f) The meeting urged OHCHR to make available to the rapporteurs and experts of the Commission, on a regular basis, country studies prepared in the context of its programme of advisory services and technical cooperation;

(g) The meeting noted with appreciation the willingness of DPI to help achieve a greater awareness of the special procedures mechanisms and to disseminate information about their work. It further urged OHCHR to encourage and step up research and the collection and analysis of data, including through the establishment of appropriate databases, which would assist the activities of the special procedures mechanisms;

(h) The meeting welcomed the organization, for the first time, of a joint meeting with the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies, which emphasized that the activities of the special procedures and the treaty bodies were equally and mutually important. It encouraged OHCHR to make documentation produced by each group of mechanisms available to the other and urged the intensification of such efforts. The meeting urged OHCHR to formalize a system for drawing the attention of the different special procedures mandates to information from treaty bodies relevant to their work, including both concluding observations on States parties' reports and final Views on individual cases. Similarly, the reports of the special procedures mandates should be made available, as appropriate, to the treaty bodies;

(i) The meeting encouraged treaty bodies to call, as appropriate, for the cooperation of special procedures mandates, including the possibility of a direct exchange of information during their respective sessions. It requested OHCHR to ensure the necessary funding for such cooperation;

(j) The meeting urged the institutionalization of joint meetings between holders of special procedures mandates and the chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies in future years;

(k) The meeting welcomed the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice in the case of Dato' Param Cumaraswamy. It urged the Government of Malaysia to implement the findings of the Court fully and promptly;

(l) The participants recalled that the Manual for Special Rapporteurs, which it had adopted in the course of the present meeting, would be revised periodically and as required;

(m) Participants called for regular information about the follow-up to the study on capacity-building and the strengthening of the special procedures mechanisms. They recalled that the resources for the special procedures were generally felt to be inadequate for the professional discharge of mandate holders' functions, and called for at least one Professional staff member to be assigned to each mandate;

(n) The meeting requested the Chairperson and Mr. Copithorne to represent the rapporteurs and experts of the Commission in the work of the open-ended working group on the review of the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights. The Chairperson should delegate other rapporteurs or experts to attend the working group as appropriate;

(o) The meeting requested the Chairperson and Mr. Copithorne to follow the evolution of the draft code of conduct for experts other than Secretariat officials on mission;

(p) The participants welcomed the adoption of the "Declaration on Human Rights Defenders" by the General Assembly. They committed themselves to cooperate among themselves on this issue, it being understood that the nature of the problem was not one that could be covered satisfactorily by them alone in the discharge of their specific mandates. Participants committed themselves to help promote and implement the Declaration;

(q) In respect of the still unresolved issue of medical insurance for experts on mission, the participants urged the OHCHR administration to find ways that would permit the early reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by rapporteurs and experts on mission;

(r) Since financing restrictions prevented the officers of the fifth meeting from undertaking tasks mandated by that meeting, the meeting urged OHCHR to earmark budgetary resources to enable the participants of the meeting to follow up on its recommendations;

(s) The meeting agreed that the draft provisional agenda contained in appendix III should be proposed to the seventh meeting of special rapporteurs and experts of the Commission on Human Rights.

Notes

1/ Ms. Cecilia Medina Quiroga (Human Rights Committee), Ms. Virginia Bonoan Dandan (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), Ms. Nafsiah Mboi (Committee on the Rights of the Child), Ms. Aida Gonzalez (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women), Mr. Peter T. Burns (Committee against Torture) and Mr. Mahmoud Aboul-Nasr (Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination).

2/ Mr. Diego García-Sayan (Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances), Mr. Abid Hussain (Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression), and Mr. Roberto Garretón (Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

Appendix I

LIST OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thematic mandates

Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (Chairperson-Rapporteur: Mr. I. Tosevski)

Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (Chairperson-Rapporteur: Mr. K. Sibal)

Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (Ms. A. Jahangir)

Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (Mr. D.P. Cumaraswamy)

Special Rapporteur on the question of torture (Sir Nigel Rodley)

Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (Mr. F. Deng)

Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance (Mr. A. Amor)

Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries (Mr. E. Bernales-Ballesteros)

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Mr. A. Hussain)

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Mr. M. Glèlè-Ahanhanzo)

Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Ms. O. Calcetas-Santos)

Special Rapporteur on violence against women (Ms. R. Coomaraswamy)

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on children (Mr. O. Otunnu)

Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and waste (Ms. F.Z. Ouhachi-Vesely)

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (to be appointed)

Special Rapporteur on the effects of foreign debt on the effective exercise of economic, social and cultural rights (Mr. P. Figueredo)

Independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty (Ms. A.-M. Lizin)

Special Rapporteur on the right to education (Ms. K. Tomasevski)

Independent expert on the right to development (Mr. A. Sengupta)

Independent expert on restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights (Mr. C. Bassiouni)

Independent expert on structural adjustment policies (Mr. F. Cheru)

Country mandates

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (Mr. K. Hossein)

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea (Mr. A. Artucio)

Special Representative of the Commission on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Mr. M. Copithorne)

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq (Mr. M. van der Stoel)

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (Mr. P. Lallah)

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (Mr. H. Halinen)

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Mr. J. Dienstbier)

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Mr. R. Garretón)

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (Mr. L. Franco)

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi (Mr. P.S. Pinheiro)

Special Representative of the Commission on the situation of human rights in Rwanda (Mr. M. Moussalli)

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Cambodia (Mr. T. Hammarberg)

Independent expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia (Mr. M. Rishmawi)

Independent expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti (Mr. A. Dieng)

Appendix II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Alejandro Artucio

Mr. Cherif Bassiouni

Mr. Enrique Bernales-Ballesteros

Ms. Otelia Calcetas-Santos

Mr. Maurice Copithorne

Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy

Mr. Dato' Param Cumaraswamy

Mr. Adama Dieng

Mr. Francis Deng

Mr. Jiri Dienstbier

Mr. Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart

Mr. Diego Garcia-Sayan (on behalf of Mr. Joseveski)

Mr. Roberto Garretón

Mr. Maurice Glélé-Ahanhanzo

Mr. Hannu Halinen

Mr. Thomas Hammarberg

Mr. Kamal Hossein

Mr. Abid Hussain

Ms. Asma Jahangir

Mr. Louis Joinet (on behalf of Mr. Sibal)

Mr. Michel Moussalli

Ms. Fatma Zora Ouhachi-Vesely

Mr. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro

Ms. Mona Rishmawi

Sir Nigel Rodley

Mr. Arjun Sengupta

Ms. Katarina Tomasevski

Appendix III

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING

1. Capacity-building and enhancement of the effectiveness of the special procedures system: follow-up to the study commissioned by and conducted on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and matters arising from resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, including the review of mechanisms of the Commission.

2. Support services.

3. Special procedures (monitoring mechanisms) vis-à-vis the advisory services and technical cooperation activities.

4. Corporate responsibility for human rights violations.

5. Measures to improve the work of the special procedures system on human rights defenders.

6. Joint meeting with the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies.

7. Meeting with representatives of non-governmental organizations.

8. Meeting with the Bureau of the Commission on Human Rights.

9. Exchange of experiences among holders of special procedures mandates.